

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughrue
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There's a Henry in Every Town

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
Sunday School
Lesson(By REV. P. S. FITZWATER, D. D.,
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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 19

ELISHA AND NAAMAN THE SYRIAN

LESSON TEXT—II Kings 5:1-27.
GOLDEN TEXT—Elisha the Lord, O my
soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who
forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth
all thy diseases.—Ps. 103:2, 3.REFERENCE MATERIAL—Luke 4:16-18.
PRIMARY TOPIC—A Little Girl Help-
ing.
JUNIOR TOPIC—A Young Girl's Service.INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—
Elisha Helping a Foreigner.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—
How to Overcome National and Racial
Prejudices.

I. Naaman's Fatal Defect (v. 1).
He was a great man, but a leper. He was held in high esteem by the king, because through him the Syrians had been delivered from their enemies. He was not only a capable general, but was a very brave man—valorous. Every unregenerate man, regardless of his gifts and possessions, has this one fatal defect. He may be a mighty warrior, a great orator, a gifted writer, a man of profound learning, an honorable statesman, but if he is an unbeliever in Christ, he is a lost sinner—a leper. Leprosy is a type of sin. Note its characteristics:

Loneliness, hereditary, infectious, separating, destructive, deceitful, incurable by man.

II. The Faithful Witness (vv. 2-4).
This was a Jewish maid who had been captured by marauding Syrian troops who made frequent incursions into Israel's land for the purpose of plunder. Daniel at a later date was carried away captive, and he likewise was used of God to bless many. Joseph is another example of one who was put into a hard place, but became a blessing to others, even to the saving of his brothers, who sold him. This Jewish maid pointed out to this great man the One who could heal him. Many are the persons who have been pointed to Christ as the Healer of souls by children.

III. Naaman Seeking the Healer (vv. 5-9).
1. He goes with a letter of intro-

duction and great gifts (v. 5). In the East valuable gifts are taken along when in quest of some favor. In this case the value was perhaps \$80,000.

2. He goes to the wrong place (vv. 6, 7). The maid did not suggest that if Naaman would be with the king he would be recovered of his leprosy, but with the prophet of God. We should be very careful that we go to the right place with our troubles and sins. Neither the king's power nor Naaman's money could avail anything in this case. The prophet of God can bring greater blessing than kings and rich men.

3. Naaman at the door of Elisha (vv. 8, 9). Elisha, upon learning of the king's embarrassment, sent to him, saying, "Let him come now to me." Naaman appeared before Elisha's door in great splendor. He did not come as a suppliant, but as one who could pay a goodly sum for healing.

IV. Naaman Healed (vv. 10-15).
1. Elisha's message (v. 10). Go wash in Jordan seven times.

2. Naaman's anger (vv. 11, 12). He thought that Elisha should have shown deference to him. People today think that their rank and wealth entitle them to different treatment by God. They turn away from the humble way of the Cross, God's method of salvation. Rich and poor, high and low are alike in God's sight. Reasonings of the flesh must be supplanted by the obedience of faith.

3. Naaman's obedience (vv. 13, 14). Through the earnest entreaty of his servants his pride and prejudice were overcome, and he did what the prophet commanded. The result of his obedience was that his flesh "came again as the flesh of a little child."

4. Naaman acknowledges Jehovah (v. 15). After his cleansing he came again to the prophet and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel." The vital point of teaching in this lesson is how nearly Naaman missed being healed. The three enemies which almost kept him from being healed were: (1) Pride (v. 11). He was insulted because the man of God did not come out to such a distinguished man as he was. (2) Preconceived opinion (v. 11). "I thought." Many sinners procrastinate because they have preconceived opinions as to how God ought to save. (3) Prejudice (v. 12). Rivers of Damascus are better than Jordan. Countless thousands are lost by these enemies. God has provided only one way to save men from their sins—the way of the Cross.

The Unrighteous.
The ways of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes.—Rom. 3:17-18.

NEWS REVIEW
(Continued from Page One)

codify international law in regard to visit and search, but to state the most important provisions which already are a part of the law of nations.

"It does undertake," said Mr. Root, "to stop the violation of these rules and the doing to death of women and children and other non-combatants by declaring the wanton destruction of merchant vessels carrying passengers to be a violation of the laws of war and an act of piracy. This treaty will be supported by the greatest power known to history. It crystallizes in simple and concrete terms the opinion of the civilized world that already exists in order that hereafter no nation shall dare to do what was done when the women and children of the Lusitania went to their death by wanton murder on the high seas."

In completing a wonderful day's work, the conference gave its approval to resolutions relating to China, to be embodied in treaties, including declaration of the open door, publication of existing treaties, agreements and commitments with China, radio establishments in China, Chinese railways, withdrawal of foreign post offices, withdrawal of foreign troops from Chinese territory, and reduction of Chinese military forces in the interest of economy and internal tranquility. These treaties, not yet drafted, are to be reported to the next plenary session of the conference, which probably will be its last.

The question of reducing their land forces by one-half was presented to the governments of two nations. By one it was rejected, and the same action is expected in the other case. To the central executive committee of the Russian soviet government, Lenin proposed that the Russian army be cut in half, with a view to meeting the wishes of the United States. Leon Trotsky spoke in opposition and the committee rejected the plan. In the Japanese diet the Kokuminto party brought forward the same proposition. The war office opposed it, having a plan of its own which contemplates reductions in personnel and the strengthening of armaments and equipment. The minister of war says the idea of halving the army is preposterous in view of the fact that the Russian army is still a million strong and can be transported easily with the restoration of the Trans-Siberian railway. It was considered that political reasons would prevent the adoption of the Kokuminto resolution.

WITH the exception of the United States all the nations asked to participate in the Geneva conference in March have accepted the invitation.

that it will be represented, because it feels itself bound by the action of former Premier Briand at the Cannes meeting of the supreme council. Premier Poincaré is devoting much attention to the German reparations problem and has asked the other allied governments to state their views as to the procedure that should be adopted in regard to the latest proposals made by Germany. He intimates that France prefers to leave the whole matter in the hands of the reparations commission, as the treaty of Versailles provides. Lenin has sent word to Italy that he personally will head the Russian delegation in Geneva.

SECRETARY of War Weeks submitted to congress Henry Ford's offer for the government projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala., "for such action as congress may deem appropriate." Mr. Weeks did not advise either acceptance or rejection, but he said if the proposal were accepted "the government must make new appropriations amounting to \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000, of which Mr. Ford will have the benefit for approximately 100 years at 4 per cent."

In the event the offer be rejected, the secretary gave it as his opinion that dam No. 2 (Wilson dam) should be completed by the government and that the power requirements for commercial purposes, the benefits to navigation, as well as the possible needs of the government would warrant this expenditure.

COAL operators last week declared there must be a radical reduction in the wage scale, which expires March 31. Mine union and railroad union leaders laid plans for co-operative action to prevent a lowering of miners' wages. Consequently a strike seems inevitable, and the national government, through Attorney General Dougherty, began planning to meet the crisis. What steps Mr. Dougherty contemplates is not known, but in discussing the matter he pledged support of unions as long as they are lawfully conducted but questioned their right to impose the closed-shop principle. An important feature of the controversy is the proposal of the operators to abolish the check-off system, under which union dues are deducted from miners' pay.

NEARLY one hundred persons perished when the roof of the Knickerbocker movie theater in Washington collapsed under the weight of a heavy snowfall. Nearly all the victims were killed instantly, but one, and perhaps the most prominent, survived several days. This was Edward H. Shaughnessy of Chicago, second assistant postmaster general. The house district of Columbia committee has an-

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CHANGE IN RATES

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over construction a plan to purchase the site of the theater and transform it into a park in which shall be erected a memorial to those who lost their lives in the disaster.

This terrible accident in the Capital marked the worst storm that the Atlantic coast states have experienced in many years. Deep snow, high gales and severe cold almost paralyzed many cities and greatly hampered railway transportation.

IT is probable that before this is in the hands of the reader the successor to Pope Benedict XV will have been chosen. The sacred college began its convocation in the Vatican on Thursday with 52 cardinals present. Several others were on their way there. In accordance with ancient custom, the cardinals were cut off from communication with the outside world until their task should be completed, and the only sign of their doings was the periodical smoke wreath from the chimney of the Sistine chapel when each secret ballot was burned. Before the voting began both the Italian and French governments had denied having any favorite candidate. It was thought the successful cardinal would be one who would moderately continue the policies of Benedict, and many believed Gasparri had the best chance.

THE senate of the United States passed the bill for refunding the foreign debt into securities maturing in not more than 25 years. The vote was 39 to 25, three Republicans—Borah, La Follette and Norris—joining the Democratic opposition. The measure is virtually as the administration recommended, though it was said President Harding didn't like some of its provisions. Senator Simon of North Carolina offered an amendment providing for the use of the fund on the allied loans to pay

New Mexico offered another providing for the payment of the bonus directly out of the treasury. Both were defeated. Senator McCumber stating a bill was now being prepared that would give adjusted compensation to the former service men. Senator Borah denounced the bill as a scheme whose ultimate purpose was the cancellation of the entire foreign debt.

PRESIDENT Harding and Senator Kenyon to either furnished the country with a great surprise last week. The President nominated the Iowa statesman to be judge of the United States Circuit court, Eighth circuit, and Mr. Kenyon at once announced his acceptance. The senate was astonished, but did not hesitate to confirm the nomination. Democratic leaders expressed the belief that the President of one of the chiefs of the agricultural line, Mr. Kenyon himself issued this statement:

"The President has known since our service together in the senate that political life did not appeal to me and that my ambition was to serve on the federal bench. I am deeply appreciative of the act of the President in appointing me to this position."

In Washington it was believed Representative Burton Sweet of Iowa would succeed Kenyon in the senate. An announced candidate for the place is H. O. Weaver, Iowa lawyer and farmer, president of the American Short-horn Breeders' association and of the Iowa Agricultural society.

BECAUSE the Italian government saw fit to recognize the death of the late pope the opposition element were enabled to get together, and on Thursday Premier Bonomi and his cabinet announced their resignation. They had retained the support of only the Catholic party and a small group of reformers.

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